

Application Serial No. 09/921,401
Reply to Office Action of July 19, 2007

PATENT
Docket: CU-2612

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated July 19, 2007, the Examiner states that Claims 1-5, 9-20, 23-27, 35 and 36 are pending, and Claims 1-5, 9-20, 23-27, 35 and 36 are rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Cook (US 6,786,655). Claims 9-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook in view of Nishiwaki (US 5,602,973). Claim 20/1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook in view of Nardozzi (US 6,636,837) and Vance (US 6,131,874). Claim 23 is rejected in further view of Minamishin (US 6,516,468). Claims 24-25/1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook in view of Morba (US 6,381,033). Claim 26/1 is rejected in further view of Otsuki (US 6,692,096). Claim 27/1 is rejected in further view of Wright (US 3,381,478). Claim 20/9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook in view of Nishiwaki, Nardozzi and Vance. Claim 23/1 is rejected in further view of Minamishin. Claims 24-25/9 are rejected in further view of Morba. Claim 26/9 is rejected in further view of Otsuki. Claim 27/9 is rejected in further view of Wright. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses these rejections with respect to the claims that remain in the application following this amendment.

Claims 1-5, 25-27, 35 and 36 are presented without amendment. Claims 9-19 are cancelled. Claims 20, 23 and 24 are amended to depend from only Claim 1.

Regarding the Rejection under 35 USC § 102.

Claims 1 - 5 are rejected as being anticipated by Cook.

In the Official Action, at pages 3, lines 9 - 14, it indicates that "The main body also includes a private information inputting unit (payment system such as a card reader, See Figure 1, Element 111a) to input private information of the customer (payment card contains private information of the customer, such as the card amount and credit/debit card number so that the main body of the printing system inputs this private information in order to process the customer data, See Col.5, line 9 -14), and a receipt note issuing unit (receipt printer, See Figure 1, Element 112d) that is capable of outputting a receipt note which has information on it (the printing system is capable of identifying the customer by scanning the bar code of the receipt printed out in order for the customer to pay for service and receive the printed image, See,

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Col. 5, Line 19-40). The backyard printing section includes the collation sheet printing unit (printed images), which has the customer identity information (after the printing system receives the customer identification, the clerk is capable of retrieving the images after scanning the bar code of the receipt so that the customer would be able to receive the prints that were ordered. See, Col. 5, Line 29-40). "

However, at Col. 5, Line 9-14 in Cook, what is disclosed is that "In the preferred embodiment, the payment system 112 comprises a card reader 112a. The card reader 112a accepts payment cards, such as a smart card or a card containing an encoded magnetic strip. The card reader 112a preferably allow the use of credit cards, debit cards, and prepaid cards to be used by the customer to pay for services at the self-service film processing system 100."

In Cook, the card reader is merely disclosed as a part of the payment system, and there is no description and no suggestion for using the card reader as the customer information inputting means.

Further, at Col. 5, Line 19-40 in Cook, it is disclosed that " In this embodiment, the reader 112a may comprises a bar code reader. Services for the self-service film processing system 100 can be prepaid at a cashier and the cashier provides the customer with a receipt having a printed bar code that can be read by the reader 112c. In yet another embodiment, the payment system comprises a receipt printer 112d. In this embodiment the receipt printer 112d prints a receipt that is provided to a cashier and the customer pays the cashier for the services provided by the self-service film processing system 100. In the preferred embodiment, the receipt printer 112d prints a receipt having a bar code, which can be read by a scanner by the cashier. This embodiment is particularly useful in embodiments in which prints of the digital image 108 are not made at the self-service digital film processing system 100, but are printed in an area controlled by the cashier. In this embodiment , the customer would receive the prints corresponding to the receipt when the receipt is paid by the customer. The payment system 112 may comprise any one or combination of the disclosed payment system 112, as well as any other suitable system for allowing the customer to pay for the services of the self-service film processing system 100. For example, the payment system 112 may comprise an automatic billing system based on the identity of the customer."

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Namely, although the Cook system has a receipt printer 112d, the printer prints a receipt having a bar code, but it does not print a receipt having private information of the customer such as the credit card holder's name or credit card number.

Further, the kiosk of Cook issues a receipt that has a unique bar code which allows the customer to pay and receive the printed image at a given time.

Although the receipt having a unique bar code of Cook will be used for identifying the customer similar with the receipt and collation sheet according to the present invention, the bar code will be automatically decided by the kiosk. Therefore, if the customer loses the receipt, the identification of the customer is also lost. In the present invention, since the receipt and the collation sheet have customer identity information which includes the input of private information, the identification of the customer is easy even if the receipt is lost.

Therefore, the receipt and collation sheet using the input private information has a clear and advantageous difference over Cook's receipt using a bar code. When using a bar code for identifying the customer, if the customer loses the receipt having the bar code, the identification of the customer becomes impossible. Whereas, when using private information for identifying the customer, even if the customer loses the receipt, identification can be done with ease.

As previously argued, although rejection states that Cook shows a private information inputting unit which is the payment system such as a card reader, Cook only discloses and intends that the card reader is for the payment system. There is no suggestion or teaching for using the card reader as a private information inputting unit. It is clear that the receipt issued by Cook is bar code which is no relation to the information read by the card reader, and the information read by the card reader should be treated as confidential information for use only for payment by the credit card company, and thus, it is hardly considered that the printing system itself owns the card information in order to use it for another purpose such as printing article receipt confirmation.

Currently card reading machines, such as ATM machines, do print receipts with the last four digits of the card number and the cardholder's name. However, the Examiner has not shown that such a practice was well known at the time of the invention or before. It certainly is not shown in the cited prior art reference. Thus,

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the Examiner is applying hindsight reasoning. Furthermore, even if card reading machines at the time of the invention or before can print receipts with the card number and cardholder's name, regarding the self-service film processing system, that information is not used for the identification of a customer.

Thus, the Applicant considers that the rejection under 35 USC 102(e) by Cook regarding Claims 1-5 overcome.

Regarding the Rejection under 35 USC § 103 for Claims 20, 23-27, and 35-36

As mentioned above, the kiosk of Cook issues a receipt that has a unique bar code which allows the customer to pay and receive the printed image at a given time.

Although the receipt having a unique bar code of Cook will be used for identifying the customer similar to the receipt and collation sheet according to the present invention, the bar code will be automatically decided by the kiosk. Therefore, if the customer loses the receipt, the identification of the customer is also lost. In the present invention, since the receipt and the collation sheet has customer identity information which includes the input of private information, the identification of the customer is easy even in the situation in which the receipt is lost.

Therefore, the receipt and collation sheet using the input private information has a clear and advantageous difference over Cook's receipt using bar code.

Although the rejection indicates that Cook shows a private information inputting unit which is a payment system such as a card reader, Cook only discloses and intends that the card reader is for the payment system. There is no suggestion or teaching for using the card reader for a private information inputting unit. It is clear that the receipt of Cook is a bar code which is not related to the information read by the card reader, and the information read by the card reader should be treated as confidential information for use only for payment by the credit card company, and thus, it is hardly considered that the printing system itself owns the card information in order to use it for another purpose such as printing an articles receipt confirmation.

Since Claims 20, 23-27 and 35-36 are dependent claims of Claim 1, they are also not considered anticipated by or obvious from Cook. Further, the other references, Nardozzi, Vance, Minamishin, Morba, Otsuki, and Wright, fail to disclose or suggest to issuing a receipt note having customer identity information which

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includes the private information input at the private information inputting unit, and issuing the collation sheet which has the customer identity information which includes the private information input at the private information inputting means. Thus, these claims are also not considered obvious from any combinations of the cited references.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



January 18, 2008

Date

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